***Introit (Psalm 3)***

P: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

C: Give Your blessing to Your people!

P: Lord, You are my protection.

C: You are my glory. You make me look-up.

P: I shouted to the Lord for help.

C: He answered me from His holy hill.

P: I laid-down and slept.

C: I woke-up again because the Lord took-care of me.

P: I will not fear thousands of people,

C: No-matter they are all against me, I will not fear.

**All: Glory give to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, the same as it was in the beginning, is now, and will continue forever. Amen.**

***Prayer for God’s Word***

P: Almighty God, in Your great goodness, look on Your people with mercy. Then You will lead and protect us always, our body and soul. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Jesus lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

The Old Testament lesson is from Isaiah chapter 43.

The Lord says this. He made a way through the sea, and He made a path through the mighty waters. He led the chariots and horses, the army and the soldiers together. All of them died and never stood alive again. They were the same-as a candle blown-out.

The Lord says, “Forget the things that happened in the past. Don’t continue thinking about long-ago. Look! I am doing a new thing, beginning now! Do you see it? I will make a way in the wilderness. In the desert, I will make rivers. Wild animals honor Me. Wild dogs and ostriches honor Me because I give water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. I give water to My people, the people I chose. I made these people for Myself, then they praise Me.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the New Testament reading, a shorter reading from Philippians 3 or a longer reading from Philippians 3. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Philippians chapter 3.

I think of everything here as lost. Why? For me to know Christ Jesus my Lord is more important and much better. Because of Jesus, I think of everything here as lost. I think everything in this life is the same-as worthless trash. Why? Then I can have Christ Jesus and belong to Him. I obey God’s law and make myself righteous? No! My righteousness is through faith in Christ. Through faith, God gives me His righteousness. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. I want to experience His sufferings and become the same-as Him in His death. Then I can rise alive from the dead.

I don’t mean I already have these things. I am not-yet perfect. Christ already decided to make me belong to Him. Now I continue running so I can keep His gifts. Dear Christians, I know I am not-yet finished. I do one thing: I forget the past and run straight ahead. I run hard toward the goal in heaven, because God called me to heaven through Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Philippians chapter 3.

I have reasons to trust myself. If anyone else thinks they can trust themselves, I have more reasons. I got circumcised when I was eight days old. I belong to the people of Israel. I am from the Jewish family named BENJAMIN. I am a good Hebrew. I was a PHARISEE who followed the law. I persecuted the church. No one could accuse me of breaking any law. But no-matter those things helped me, I now think of them as all worthless because of Jesus.

I think of everything here as lost. Why? For me to know Christ Jesus my Lord is more important and much better. Because of Jesus, I think of everything here as lost. I think everything in this life is the same-as worthless trash. Why? Then I can have Christ Jesus and belong to Him. I obey God’s law and make myself righteous? No! My righteousness is through faith in Christ. Through faith, God gives me His righteousness. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. I want to experience His sufferings and become the same-as Him in His death. Then I can rise alive from the dead.

I don’t mean I already have these things. I am not-yet perfect. Christ already decided to make me belong to Him. Now I continue running so I can keep His gifts. Dear Christians, I know I am not-yet finished. I do one thing: I forget the past and run straight ahead. I run hard toward the goal in heaven, because God called me to heaven through Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 20.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus told the people this story. “A man planted a VINEYARD. He rented the VINEYARD to some farmers, and he went to another country for a long time. At harvest time, he sent a servant to the farmers. The farmers needed to give him some of the fruit as rent payment. But the farmers beat the servant and sent him away with nothing. The owner sent another servant. The farmers beat and abused that servant and sent him away with nothing. The owner sent a third servant. The farmers hurt him and threw him out.

Then the owner said, ‘What should I do? I will send my son. I love him. Maybe they will respect my son.’

But when the farmers saw the son, they said, ‘He is the HEIR. Let’s kill him. Then we will get the inheritance.’

So the farmers threw the son out of the VINEYARD and killed him. Now what will the owner do to the farmers? He will come and kill them and give the VINEYARD to other people.”

When the people heard this story, they said, “No! That must never happen!”

Jesus looked at the people and said, “Then what does this mean when the Bible says, ‘The stone the builders rejected now became the cornerstone?’ A person who falls on that stone, the person will get broken. But if that stone falls on someone, the stone will crush him.”

The law teachers and priests now looked for a way to arrest Jesus, because they knew Jesus spoke the story against them. But they were afraid of the people. So they sent SPIES to watch Jesus. They pretended to be honest. They wanted to catch Jesus saying something wrong. Then they could arrest Jesus and give Him to the Roman governor.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (copy) Praise to You, O Christ.